



## MEDIA RELEASE

August 12, 2020

### NO MORE RAPE!!

Rape Culture is pervasive and while varying connotations emerge from time to time based on cultural contexts, one constant which holds true is that RAPE remains rooted in traditional patriarchal beliefs of power and control. This lawlessness must end and there must be accountability!

Another young woman was brutalized on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. Abducted, Raped, Beaten, Stabbed and left for dead in the bushes, this teenage immigrant found the strength to drag herself out of the bushes to the side of the road, where she was seen by passers-by who stopped and contacted the authorities.

That anyone would do this to another human being is heinous. That a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is somehow complicit is beyond the pale. The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is there to protect and serve. The TTPS is proud of its recently opened Domestic Violence Unit, which makes this incident even more heartbreaking. How women are supposed the trust that our safety is being taken seriously?

The accused is considered innocent until proven guilty, and this case is no different. For the participants and the institution. However, when we have individuals competing in National campaigns in the general elections while being under investigation for rape – what example is being set for citizens.

We therefore call on the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to do the following:

- Prioritize the arrest and prosecution of persons accused of rape.
- Increase surveillance in areas that are sparsely populated.
- Increase community policing with gender and language diverse teams.
- Communicate with the migrant / refugee community to alleviate fear and anxiety
- Collaborate with NGOs to effectively reach migrant/refugee communities
- We urge the TTPS to take all allegations made against political officials or aspiring representatives seriously and commence investigations immediately, particularly when there is an impending election.

We pray for the full recovery of this victim - physically and emotionally.

**#End**

*CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago (CCoTT) is a volunteer non-governmental organization focused on Advocacy and Public Awareness on and for the Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW. Our mission is to ensure the Convention mandates are upheld, and the recommendations highlighted in the Closing Observations are implemented in the context of Trinidad and Tobago. CCoTT strives to cultivate a vibrant community that will support, strengthen and guide the development of frameworks as a critical cog in the advocacy wheel. Through this, CCoTT intends to promote the essential tenets of the convention, and stay engaged with communities in a manner that adds significant value, into effective, sustainable development.*

[www.cedawtt.org](http://www.cedawtt.org)

**CCoTT adheres to the three principles of the CEDAW Convention**

**Equality / Non-Discrimination / State Obligation**

[tandcedawcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:tandcedawcommittee@gmail.com)

Facebook: @TTCEDAWChamps Twitter: @CCoT\_T Instagram: tnt\_cedaw\_champs